

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY  
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at 5:15 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

---

**PRESENT:** Chair Bernie Erickson, Jim Haskins, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Joe Witkowski,  
Jerry Polus, Sherry Steenbock, Rosemary Desisles  
**EXCUSED:** Troy Ness, John Maino, Donald Bettine, John Walschinski

---

\*\*Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1233

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:15 p.m.

2. **Invocation by Jim Haskins.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

Chair Bernie Erickson wished to modify the agenda to add the introduction of Rosemary Desisles under Item Number 8.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHERRY STEENBOCK, SECONDED BY JIM HASKINS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS MODIFIED. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of October 18, 2011.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY DUANE PIERCE, SECONDED BY SHERRY STEENBOCK TO APPROVE. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Discussion Regarding Veterans Day.**

Jerry Polus stated that he had heard a lot of positive feedback not only about the Veterans Day event at the VFW, but other events held elsewhere as well. Duane Pierce asked what day the ceremony will be held in 2012 as Veterans Day will fall on a Sunday. It was noted that John Maino will probably not emcee the ceremony on a weekend. Jim Haskins stated that he had talked to the Yacht Club regarding their ceremony for 2012 and was advised that they will hold their ceremony on Saturday. Sherry Steenbock stated that she will contact the Post Commander to get his thoughts on this as well.

Sherry Steenbock felt that prize distribution went very well this year. Duane Pierce thought consideration should be given to starting the drawing a little earlier because by the time the numbers were drawn a lot of people had left. Steenbock stated that when the tickets are handed out they are asked if they are staying and are told that they must be present to win. Steenbock also felt that holding off with the prizes until the latter part of the event helps keep people there longer.

6. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus – Veterans Court.**

CVSO Jerry Polus reported that the County Board had approved the Veterans budget as submitted and also added \$10,000 into the emergency fund which was greatly appreciated. Polus also reported that there are two businesses that are tentatively planning on sending checks for the emergency fund.

Polus also provided an update on Veterans Court. They plan to begin taking cases in January, 2012 and Judge Kendall Kelley will be the presiding judge. He also reiterated the concept of Veterans Court which is to reduce recidivism and help secure appropriate treatment and benefits for veterans who have broken the law. The program consists of several phases which are

covered over an 18 month period. Veterans Court will meet on Friday afternoons at approximately 3:00 p.m. and the hearings should be open to the public. There will be a screening process to determine if an individual is a veteran, and, if so, they will then be screened through the criminal justice system, and then through the VA to determine eligibility for treatment, and then the application is reviewed by the Veterans Court Committee before they are accepted into the program.

Polus continued that he and former County Executive Tom Hinz had recently met with the community relations coordinator at Schreiber Foods and there is a possibility that Schreiber may make a very generous donation to help with Veterans Court. The treatment court team would like to attend a five day training session which would be held in Tulsa, Buffalo or Orange County, California and a donation may be used to facilitate that.

Chair Bernie Erickson stated that he had been out collecting nomination signatures recently and the feedback he received from his constituents was very positive as to the Veterans Clinic. He also explained the Veterans Court to some of these individuals and that concept was also well received.

**7. Report from Committee Members Present (Haskins, Pierce, Steenbock, & Witkowski).**

-Jim Haskins stated that he had exceeded his 11 in 11 goal with 13 new businesses this year. He also stated that he received a veterans discount at Big Lots which was a pleasant surprise and that he had seen signs in support of veterans on Veterans Day at a number of local businesses including Sidekicks Bar and Dermatology Associates. He continued that Golden Corral and Home Depot have both made large donations to help veterans.

Haskins also noted that Power Ball winners in Connecticut were donating one million dollars to five different organizations that support veterans and military members who have recently returned from deployment.

-Duane Pierce reported that the Yacht Club outdid themselves with this year's Veterans Day Ceremony and that the Legion Post provided the honor guard and rifle salute and their Chaplin and John Maino also said a few words. He also reported that Pearly Gates had a nice spread of food for veterans and the Legion also put on a nice spaghetti dinner.

-Sherry Steenbock stated that 32 new certificates were being mailed this month. She also stated how heartwarming it was to see more and more companies supporting veterans and she felt that this Subcommittee was responsible for a lot of this support and she was very proud of the Subcommittee and its members.

-Joe Witkowski entertained the Subcommittee with a rendition of 'Twas The Night Before Christmas.

**8. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

At this time Chair Bernie Erickson introduced Rosemary Desisles to the Subcommittee. She stated that she would be honored to be a part of the Subcommittee and she was welcomed with a round of applause.

**9. Adjourn.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO ADJOURN AT 5:50 P.M. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully Submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary